road should be paid for by Government and that Government should also pay for the small bridge which was being erected on the 1st mile ; (4) that the blasting necessary to make the road 12 feet wide should be undertaken by the P. W. D ; (5) and that Government should allot Rs. 500 per mile per annum for the future upkeep of the road.

In regard to the Mundakayam-Rani road, which had been brought up at the 13th session of the Assembly, he understood that the Chief Engineer had been asked to submit an estimate. The matter was subsequently allowed to be dropped as no work on the road was done, although the need for it was admitted. He pointed out that it was necessary that the land should be surveyed and acquired at once, as the price of land was rising every year and any delay in acquiring the land would mean payment of a greater amount by Government in the shape of compensation charges. New settlers were also taking up and cultivating the land through which the road would have to go.

Dewan's reply.—The Member's representation will be considered.

VI. PUBLIC HEALTH.

(1) Town Improvement Committees.

94. Need for the appointment of non-officials as Presidents of Town Improvement Committees.

Mr. V. K. Govinda Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Neyyattinkara) said that, though the Government had declared it as their policy to appoint non-official presidents where suitable persons were available, it was not being given effect to as largely as was desirable. There were only three non-official Presidents at present out of 19 Presidents, and the Towns of Trivandrum, Quilon and Kottayam were still having officials as Presidents. It was derogatory to the prestige of the Trivandrum Town Improvement Committee, the premier Municipality in the State, that it should have as its President an officer of the Tahsildar's grade. The appointment of Tahsildars as *ex-officio* presidents of Town Improvement Committees in mofussil towns was also not to the advantage of those local bodies, as they could not, amidst their multifarious duties, devote the required time or attention which the affairs of the Committee demanded. It would not be difficult to find proper persons to perform the duties of the President more satisfactorily. Non-official presidents should, therefore, be appointed in as many towns as possible.

Dewan's reply.—When the new Municipal Bill becomes law, there will be a larger number of non-official Presidents.

95. Bathing and washing conveniences for the town of Nagercoil.

Mr. D. C. Joseph (Member, T. I. C., Nagercoil) represented that, with the exception of a few tanks which were not open to all classes there were very few bathing tanks for the town of Nagercoil. The bulk of the population resorted to irrigation tanks for bathing, but they were overgrown with weeds and were unfit for bathing purposes. Being irrigation tanks, they were not under the control of the Town Improvement Committee. In order to provide better bathing conveniences for the town, the Member suggested that at least five irrigation tanks within the Municipal limits be each divided by bunds into two ; the one for irrigation and the other for bathing purposes, and bathing ghats constructed all round the portion set apart for bathing. The work might be spread over three or four years, if it could not be undertaken in one year.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

96. Need for increasing the grant to the Town Improvement Committee, Shencottah, to effect certain public improvements.

Mr. S. Kuttalalingom Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Shencottah) represented that the balance of the Town Fund left after defraying the expenses of sweeping and lighting the town was so small that many improvements necessary for the sanitation of the

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